

Mr. Gary Allen
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August 19, 1985

Dear Fellow Bircher:

This month would have marked my 20th anniversary as a writer for American Opinion. During this time I have written over 200 articles for the magazine. The total word count is over two million. I never intended to be a journalist. I became one because I was mad as Hell about what was going on in the world. That is why I became first a Bircher and then, by circumstances, a journalist.

My writings have been well-received by Birchers because they knew I was telling the truth and not mincing any words. Well, it's time to tell some more truths. Unfortunately, this is the most unpalatable truth I have ever had to tell. But the fact is that our vehicle to preserve and regain our freedom and liberties has been stolen from us. And, it was an inside job. I am going to tell you things that you don't want to hear; things that will break your heart. But, we can't hide from the truth. If we do, we are simply engaging in the same kind of fantasies as your typical slumbering citizen.

You know by now that AO has been ash-canned. Robert Welch must be spinning in his grave. He created AO as the ideological base and transmission belt for our movement. AO and TROTN are theoretically to be replaced by a hybrid whose name, The New American, is also used by the Social Democrats for their newspaper! An ideological journal and a newsmagazine don't mix very well, but that is not the point. The official line is that the magazines had low circulation and were losing money. This conveniently ignores the fact that Scott Stanley only produced the magazines. He was denied any voice in promotion although he certainly craved to see his creations get the promotion and circulation they deserved. He was promised repeatedly that marketing, subscription renewal policies and the like would be improved. These promises were never honored.

Before we go any further let's get something straight. The official party line from Belmont will be that I wrote this letter because I am angry about Scott being fired. Guilty, but with an explanation. Yes, Scott Stanley is the closest friend I have on this earth. I couldn't love him more if we were genetic brothers.

The only people to whom I feel more loyalty are my family members. The survival of freedom and liberty for my children comes first. That is why this letter had to be written.

You have been told that Scott "resigned." That is about 10% truth and 90% falsehood. Scott was, for all intents and purposes, fired. This is what really happened: Barker told Scott that he had to desist from making speeches to raise money for Kathy McDonald's court defense against the vicious ACLU; that doing so was "competition" with the Society. (Barker has said, "What has Kathy McDonald done for the Society lately?") Scott told him that his conscience would not allow him to throw Larry's widow and babies to the wolves. Barker replied that if this was Scott's attitude, he should resign. The Barker Gang obviously saw Scott with all his creativity as a threat to their reign. They wanted him out, gone. So they created circumstances under which no man of honor could stay on. That is the real story of how Scott "resigned."

There was never a thank you for 25 years of sweat, blood and total dedication. Not a single friend of Scott's (outside his staff and writers) even called to express their appreciation. Unbelievable! Barker then fired Lee Clark, Scott's brilliant associate editor of nearly 20 years.

Scott's loyal staff has left virtually en masse. Gone are associate editors Bill Hoar, Jim Graves and editorial assistant Julie Harding. Gone are key writers John Rees, Alan Stang, Sue Huck, Medford Evans and Gary Allen.

The new editor of The Review Of The News is Jack McManus. Jack is fairly glib orally, but he is no journalist. His assistant has done most of the writing for The Birch Log. There is a big difference between turning out a single-sheet commentary and putting out a weekly newsmagazine.

Part of the knock on Scott was that he used the same tired old authors. Another knock was that TROTN was "new right" and didn't deal with the conspiracy. Now the Belmont position is that there are lots of hungry writers around Washington who will be glad to write for the new magazine. But what do they know about conspiracy?

What is the Barker Gang going to do if subscribers ask for their money back or advertisers cancel their advertising? I'll guarantee you that there are no reserves for this contingency. And they owe the printer \$275,000. What if the printer refuses to keep printing the McManus Review?

The only thing crueler than the way Scott was treated was the absolutely despicable way Mrs. Welch was treated. The Barker Gang's line on this one is that Mrs. Welch retired because of age. Another lie. She was rudely treated and was shoved out. Can you believe that? Call her and ask her about it. You also know what a wonderful, classy woman she is. But, even if she weren't, just the fact that she is Robert Welch's widow entitles her to be treated with the utmost respect and courtesy.

About the lowest, most vulgar stunt I've ever heard of was when Jack McManus slithered into Mrs. Welch's office just two days after Mr. Welch's death to gloat to her that her husband had converted to Feeneyite Catholicism on his deathbed, after having taken instructions in the faith. This is a damnable lie. During the last months of his life he didn't even recognize his wife most of the time. He couldn't take instructions in anything. You may think this stunt is beneath contempt, but I have a lot of contempt for it.

The Feeneyites believe the Pope, whom the KGB tried to assassinate, is a Communist and that all non-Feeneyites are going to Hell. Outside of Tom Hill and Barker, this cult virtually runs Belmont. If the general membership ever found out about Feeneyite control of the Belmont bureaucracy, there would be revolt in the ranks. Newsweek might find that an interesting story.

Incidentally, Mr. Welch paid for the upkeep and maintenance of his home with royalties from The Blue Book and The Politician. Barker has told Mrs. Welch that this policy has been cancelled. Robert Welch put every cent he had into the fight. There is no estate to speak of other than the house. Mrs. Welch, after everything else she has suffered, has been forced to put that house up for sale.

Who is A. Clifford Barker, anyway? Nobody knows this guy. Barker became the head of the Society not because he was chosen, but because he volunteered. The Belmont line is that he took over the Society at great personal sacrifice. Well, he did have to give up his welfare check. You see, he had filed bankruptcy. His board of directors threw him out after his company had gone broke doing government defense contracts. I thought that was impossible. It was after the bankruptcy that Sperry-Rand stepped in and took over the debacle. That is the true story behind Barker's great sacrifice, despite the baloney being peddled from Belmont. Wait 'til the media pick up this story. The truth is that Barker is a consummate liar. What are his motivations? I don't know. Some think he was sent in to deliberately destroy

the Society. John Rees contends that if this were true, he would be more subtle about it.

What can be done about Barker "The Destroyer?" I don't know. I don't know if anything can be done. That is up to YOU. I only know that, as Burke observed, all that is necessary for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing.

Sincerely,

Gary Allen

GA:jh

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December 4, 1985

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Dr. Charles Provan
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Dear Dr. Provan:

I want to congratulate you on your courageous stand and willingness to tell the truth no matter whom it offends. I want to give you my views on three very important JBS bureaucrats: Tom Hill, Chuck Armour, and Charlie Everett.

Larry McDonald, when he was preparing to take over the reins of the Society, talked to nearly one hundred former Coordinators and Major Coordinators. He found their stories incredibly repetitious. Every creative idea which would help build the Birch Society and/or damage the Conspiracy died on Tom Hill's desk. Larry's conclusion, as Kathy McDonald will verify, was that Tom Hill was a plant. There has been a great deal of debate as to whether Tom Hill is a plant--or a vegetable. Actually, it makes little difference. The bottom line is that Tom Hill stifles creativity and activity regardless of what his motives may be.

Robert Welch's Achilles heel was that he surrounded himself with sycophants who would not openly challenge his authority. Hill understood this tendency, and by withholding information and coloring the facts, managed to play Mr. Welch like a Stradivarius. Mrs. Welch says that the one major disagreement she ever had with her husband was over Tom Hill. I once said to former Coordinator Bill Murray that I thought Hill's true calling would be as a bureaucrat in the Social Security Administration. Murray disagreed. He said I over-rated Hill. Tom Hill, he said, should be taking quarters at a toll bridge. Hill has no leadership capacity. He could not inspire thirsty sailors just home from ninety days at sea to go into a bar.

While Larry McDonald concluded Hill was a plant, I have always held to the vegetable thesis. Hill is an introvert who was made, in essence, the national sales manager of a nationwide organization. For this job he was truly a mackerel out of water. In 1963 and 1964, the Society had many creative and aggressive Coordinators and members. Rather than provide training and leadership to keep these people out of trouble, all problems wound up on Tom Hill's desk. Naturally, human beings try to avoid pain. Hill soon discovered, perhaps subconsciously, that by telling people to do little more than read, write letters, and pass out literature, the number of problems arriving at his desk greatly diminished. The result, however, was to smother growth, activity, and morale in the Society.

Chuck Armour is the Western States Governor of the JBS. He is a very articulate spokesman for the positions of the Society. Chuck was an outstanding Coordinator and Major Coordinator. He was made District Governor in the wake of Rex Westerfield having turned San Marino into chaos. Westerfield, a compulsive intriguer, went to Belmont, where he wound up stealing the membership list and going back to Texas to start a political campaign management firm. In the beginning, Armour made heroic attempts to get the show back on the road. He was thwarted at every turn by Tom Hill. Armour found out that his job was all title and no authority. He had only two choices: become subservient to Tom Hill or get out. Feeling he had no other place to go to earn a living, Chuck chose the former.

This job has destroyed a once-great man. He has become a total lackey of the Over The Hill Gang. Chuck has licked Belmont's boots for so long now that it would take him a year to scrub all the shoe polish off his tongue. He has degenerated into a flagrant liar to protect his job. Armour is on a financial treadmill and can't get off. His charming-but-neurotic wife keeps him in perpetual debt. And the Birch Society has no retirement program.

Charlie Everett, now the Society's National Director of Field Activities, is simply a dedicated fanatic. He is a prototype of the stereotype that "Liberals" have of conservative activists. Charlie is a hater. In another day and in another place Charlie would have been a Communist or a Nazi. Much of his hatred is aimed at other conservatives. Everett believes that the Birch Society should have a total monopoly on the conservative movement. To him, all other conservative leaders and organizations are crooks who drain away funds which should go to the Birch Society. As you say in your letter, this is the opposite of the way Robert Welch felt. He advocated alliances with our friends, not vicious battles.

You may have noticed that Larry McDonald is damned with faint praise by these three individuals. Armour even tells people that Larry McDonald would have destroyed the John Birch Society. This is because Hill, Armour, and Everett knew they were targeted for replacement by Larry.

I hope this information will help you and others to clarify the situation in Belmont.

With Great Regards,

Gary
Gary Allen

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Dear Bircher:

Let's look at the record of A. Clifford Barker, alias Cliff Wrecker, after two years as head of the John Birch Society.

1. He wiped out the most talented editorial magazine staff in the country. Scott Stanley, Lee Clark Graves, Bill Hoar, and James Graves were forced out. A group of writers, which had taken twenty years to assemble, including myself, Alan Stang, John Rees, Marion Welch, Bill Guidry, Stephen Cole, Dr. Medford Evans, and Dr. Susan Huck, were all alienated.

In the place of American Opinion and Review of the News, Barker launched The New American. The rationale for the ash-canning of the older magazines was that they were losing money. Actually, this was a case of "figures don't lie, but liars figure"! Because the field staff was selling ads in the magazines, their expenses were being charged off against the magazines. In reality, the magazines were not a financial drain; they were the Society's Number One revenue producers. This was the fact despite the case that there was virtually no promotion to stimulate circulation.

The new magazine abandoned the Welch dictum of "If you want it straight . . ." and substituted a watered-down message that generally de-emphasized the existence of the Conspiracy. There's nothing inherently wrong with that approach. Scott Stanley is now doing the same thing with the Conservative Digest and is building a broad base. The difference is that Conservative Digest is doing it well. Robert Welch would be whirling in his grave if he knew that his American Opinion, in which he had great pride, had been turned into something that looked like it had been clobbered together by a high school journalism class. While the magazine has improved considerably since the early issues, the whole situation remains a disaster.

First of all, the money taken in for lifetime subscriptions has been spent and is gone with the wind. No money was set aside as a fulfillment reserve. The money raised from selling long-term advertising has also been spent. The assets are gone and all that remains are the liabilities. Now, the bulk of subscriptions which became renewable in April, May, and June, represented the future survival of the magazine. The results of Wrecker's renewal campaign have been described as an unmitigated disaster. Right in the middle of the renewal campaign, the magazine was changed to a fortnightly with no adjustment in price. People who had subscriptions to Review of the News or American Opinion at \$15 a year (complete with a book bonus) were being asked to renew at \$39 a year (with no bonus). Wrecker is truly a marketing marvel.

Editor Jeffrey St. John, who did not join the Society until his appointment as editor, admittedly does not believe in the existence of the Conspiracy. (How would you like to run that one passed Robert Welch?) St John, who receives \$62,000 a year, is an absentee editor who stays at his home in rural Virginia. He is openly letting people know that he is looking for another job. Now, Managing Editor Jack McManus has been made a scapegoat for the unmitigated disaster of the renewal campaign. He has been fired as Managing Editor, along with his assistant, Bill Fall. The new editor of the magazine will be Gary Benoit, described by those who have worked with him as dedicated and a hard worker, but a total fish out of water when it comes to the monumental job of creating a magazine. It's like asking a businessman to perform brain surgery. Editing a magazine is a task for which you have to be trained.

2. During the reign of Wrecker, Bunker Hunt, Bill Cies, Kenny Volk, and Dr. Tom Parker have all resigned from the Council. They've all given a no vote on the callibre of Barker's leadership.

3. The first to leave the staff after Wrecker took charge was the brilliant attorney, Gary Handy. Handy had served as Robert Welch's personal assistant for fourteen years. Privately, Handy reveals that after only two months he could no longer take Barker's arrogance. Barker, he says, will not listen or take advice from anybody, and is impossible to work with. Handy moved his family to San Diego and started a highly successful law practice. Also involved in the exodus from Belmont was Alan Davidson, who ran the book shipping department, and his wife Joyce, who worked in the accounting department. Next to go was head of accounting Charlie Humphries and his wife Sally, who headed the American Opinion bookstores. In San Marino, Joe Mehrten, head of the Speakers Bureau and the Ad Hoc Committees, was squeezed out. Now, we have the departure of McManus, of Fall, and President Tom Hill, who had worked for the Society for twenty-five years. Hill's departure was not even mentioned in the Bulletin when he "retired"; the fifty-year-old Hill is reported to have retired for health reasons. He was probably sick and tired at what he saw going on under Wrecker. We suspicion that he didn't want to be on the Titanic when it went down, or be blamed as the Herbert Hoover of the Birch Depression.

Who is next? Who is left? We'll bet Chuck Armour is very, very nervous these days. It looks as if Wrecker is systematically wiping out anyone who has any institutional memory of the way Robert Welch ran the John Birch Society.

Management is now a two-man show--Wrecker and Charlie Everett. Everett has great poise and personality (that is pronounced "poison personality"). He has been characterized by Joe Mehrten as the Director of Malignment. Everett is a first-class hater and fanatic. He does not discriminate; he loathes everybody. And virtually everybody that knows him returns the favor. One could hardly pick a more devastating disaster to run a field organization. In another time and another place, Everett would have no trouble being a Nazi or a Communist.

4. The treatment of Mrs. Robert Welch by Wrecker can only be

described as despicable. Not only was the beloved wife of our founder harassed from her job, she has been the target of malicious lies spread that she is senile and that she had constant disagreements with her husband. Mrs. Welch is one of the most magnificent women in the history of our country. She helped her husband write the Blue Book and was his helpmate and confidante throughout his life. Because of the malicious prevarications that Wrecker and Everett are spreading about Mrs. Welch, they ought to be horse-whipped. Even if she were not the magnificent lady that she is, she deserves revered treatment as the widow of our founder. Because of the way in which he has treated Mrs. Welch, you may get the impression that if Wrecker were on fire I wouldn't spit on him. That's not true.

5. The treatment of Cathy McDonald has been no better than that of Mrs. Welch. The A.C.L.U. is suing Cathy McDonald, trying to leave our martyred leader's wife and her small children in poverty. Scott Stanley was given a written ultimatum from Wrecker saying that if he helped raise money for Cathy's defense, he should resign as editor of American Opinion and Review of the News. Being a man of the highest integrity and honor, Scott resigned. For displaying this kind of character, Scott today is maligned by the staff and it is claimed that he is conspiring to destroy the John Birch Society. The truth is exactly the opposite. We have begged Scott to release his ultimatum letter from Wrecker, but Scott has so far refused to do so because he does not want to hurt the Society. Although his concern is certainly for the membership, not the current "leadership."

6. The Birch Society is now out of the publishing and book-selling business. The Belmont warehouse has been closed and the remaining inventory turned over to a fulfillment house. In typical Wrecker Orwellian tactics, this is presented to the membership as another step forward. Can you imagine the Society being out of the publishing and book distribution business? Again, Robert Welch would be spinning like a top in his grave.

7. The field staff of the Society was imploding. For example, on Easter Sunday five coordinators in the Southeast were fired in what has come to be referred to as the Easter Morning Massacre. What a wonderful Easter present! "Hello. Happy Easter! You're fired!" They couldn't wait one more day. It almost seems as if when they let a coordinator go, they do it in the most brutal and callous way possible. The coordinator is notified that "for the good of the Society and the Americanist Movement, you're job is terminated." There are no gold watches or testimonial dinners. Remember, these coordinators gave up other careers and made financial sacrifices to take the job as coordinator. This is real dedication. Then, to be terminated in such a cruel manner is unconscienable. This is not an isolated instance. Ask any former coordinator that you know.

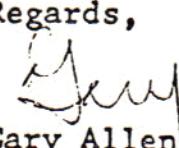
Wrecker is following the Potemkin strategy, mixed with a few touches of Orwell. Potemkin, you may recall, was the Tsar's minister who tried to convince the Tsar that everything was wonderful in Russia before the revolution. Potemkin created towns which were nothing more than false-front Hollywood movie sets, gave the local peasants new clothes and paid them to cheer

and wave at the Tsar as he was paraded around the country by train. The Tsar was thereby led to believe that everything was just great.

And, of course, the membership of the John Birch Society wants to believe that this is true. We don't blame them. People who have put years of blood, sweat, tears, and treasure into a movement do not want to face up to the truth that it is being destroyed from the inside. The staff wants to believe because it is their job. They pass on the Belmont line to the members. Anyone who tells the truth about what is really going on is denounced as a destroyer. It is a classic case of "shoot the messenger" because you don't like the message. We're sorry, but the truth is the truth, and with Wrecker in charge never the twain shall meet.

Sad as it is that we need to tell you these facts, it would be a tragedy if we could not save the Society even at this late date. What can be done? Birchers must immediately begin writing and telephoning Belmont, urging that Barker resign in the best interests of the Society. What is needed is a distinguished national leader of proven character and administrative ability. I am told that Governor Meldrim Thomson will be a speaker at the June Council Meeting. Although I have not consulted with him, I believe he has the standing and the leadership capacity to do the job at which A. Clifford Barker has failed.

Regards,


Gary Allen



P.S. GET BARKER out!